

Circular 5/58

County Councils, for information.
Common Council of the City of London.
Metropolitan Borough Councils.
Borough Councils.
Urban District Councils.
Rural District Councils.
(England.)

MINISTRY OF HEALTH,
SAVILE ROW,
LONDON, W.1.
28th January, 1958.

SIR,

INVESTIGATION OF FOOD POISONING

Revised Memorandum

1. I am directed by the Minister of Health to enclose for the information of the Council a copy of Memorandum 188/Med. on the subject of steps to be taken in the investigation of food poisoning and the supply of information in connection therewith. This is a revision, in the light of later knowledge and practice, of the Memorandum that was last revised in 1949.

2. As in the past, the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Laboratory Service will be ready to assist any Medical Officer of Health desiring advice or help regarding any outbreak.

3. It is of great importance to the Ministry to have adequate and regular information about the occurrence of food poisoning in the country and the Minister wishes to acknowledge the co-operation received from local authorities in supplying information for this purpose. He would be grateful if arrangements could be made for this to be supplied in the forms suggested in Appendices D (i) and D (ii) to the revised Memorandum 188/Med.

4. These are similar to the appendices to the 1949 Memorandum. In addition, the forms now provide for a return of cases which have not been notified under the Food and Drugs Act but have been ascertained by the Medical Officer of Health through other channels, and also for a separate return of Salmonella infections which are not considered to be food-borne.

5. The Council are asked to consider whether there is need to remind medical practitioners in their area of the value of full and prompt notification of cases of food poisoning and of their obligations in regard to such notification.

6. Two copies of this circular together with the Memorandum have been sent to the Medical Officer of Health so that a copy of each can be made available for the information of the Public Health Inspector. Further copies may be obtained from any bookseller or direct from H.M. Stationery Office.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,



R. F. Tyas.

Assistant Secretary.

The Town Clerk,
or
The Clerk of the Council.

LONDON
HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE
1958
TWO PENCE NET